

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 290855Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8185

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHARAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 4158

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF

SUBJECT: SENATOR MCCLURE VISIT TO KUWAIT

SUMMARY: DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE SENATOR MCCLURE MET WITH ACTING AMIR AND WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIALS, OIL COMPANY REPS AND OTPARS. HE WANTED TO DISCUSS ENERGY AND MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL ISSUES. KUWAITIS RECEIVED HIM WARMLY AND WERE GRATIFIED BY HIS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB VIEWS ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH US BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IMPROVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTIONS WERE REQUIRED FIRST AND SPECIFICALLY SOME TANGIBLE ISRAELI CONCESSION MUST BE MADE BEFORE OIL EMBARGO/PRODUCTION CUTS CAN BE EASED. SENATOR MCCLURE URGED PATIENCE ON ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTIONS AND ADVISED CAUTION ON USE OF OIL WEAPON LEST IT TRIGGER UNFORTUNATE BACKLASH.

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END SUMMARY

1. DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 25-27 SENATOR MCCLURE (R-IDAH0) MET WITH ACTING AMIR/CROWN PRINCE, ACTING PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND WIDE VARIETY LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS INCLUDING NEW OAPEC SECRETARY GENERAL. TALKS FOCUSED ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES, US ENERGY CRISIS- ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND US-ARAB ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

2. SENATOR MCCLURE TOLD PRESS HIS REASONS FOR VISITING MIDDLE EAST WERE TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM LOCAL LEADERS THEIR VIEWS AND FEELINGS REGARDING AREA STABILITY AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS; TO EXPLAIN HIS OWN VIEWS REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND TO GAIN FIRST HAND LOOK AT AREA PROBLEMS SO THAT HIS OWN CREDIBILITY IN SENATE WOULD BE ENHANCED WHEN HE SPOKE ON MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY MATTERS.

3. SENATOR MCCLURE CONVEYED HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY WITH ARAB VIEWS AND SAID HE THINKS THERE GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB POSITION. HE SAID OIL WEAPON WAS EFFECTIVE MEASURE BUT HE FEARED BACKLASH AS CERTAIN REGIONS OF US FACE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION. ARABS SHOULD NOT CARRY OIL EMBARGO TOO FAR, HE ASSERTED. SENATOR STRESSED FRIENDSHIP AND URGED ARABS TO BE PATIENT, EXPLAINING THAT IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT PUBLIC AT LARGE HAS FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL RECENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WOULD RESULT IN FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES.

4. KUWAITIS CLEARLY WELCOMED SENATOR MCCLURE'S VISIT AND WERE DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT A US SENATOR COULD BE AS UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR CAUSE AS HE IS. THEY REITERATED THEIR BASIC FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN ARABS IN GENERAL AND KUWAIT IN PARTICULAR FOR US. BUT THEY SAID IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR FRIENDLY ARABS TO EXPLAIN OR ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY US ACTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT OIL EMBARGO WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL SOME FAVORABLE CONCESSION IS MADE BY ISRAEL. IN THIS CONNECTION, FAILURE OF ISRAEL EVEN TO RETURN TO OCTOBER 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE HAS INTENSIFIED ALREADY DEEP SKEPTICISM HERE OF ISRAEL'S INTEREST IN WORKING OUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. EVERYONE WITH WHOM SENATOR SPOKE INDICATED

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THAT ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE WAS NOW RECOGNIZED BY ARABS, ALTHOUGH SOME EXPRESSED OPINION THAT JEWISH STATE WHICH DENIED ARABS ANY RIGHTS COULD NOT CONTINUE EXIST IN REGION IN LONG RUN.

5. COMMENT: SENATOR MCCLURE IS FIRST HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL FROM US TO VISIT KUWAIT SINCE OCTOBER WAR. LOCAL REACTION WAS VERY FAVORABLE AND RECEPTION WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY. KUWAITIS HE MET WERE FRANK AND TO THE POINT. THEY MADE IT

CLEAR THAT FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WERE DESIRED BUT  
SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION HAS TO COME BEFORE  
NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE RESUMED.  
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**TAGS:** OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF, (MCCLURE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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